

IN THE CLAIMS

Claim 14. (Currently amended) A method for screening healthy blood donors or potential blood donors for carriers of diseases or conditions related to at least one of HTLV-I and HTLV-II infections comprising:

testing a sample from a donor or a potential donor for the presence of a DNA SEQ ID NO:1 or SEQ ID NO:2 respectively which encodes the HTLV-I tax protein or the HTLV-II tax protein;

wherein a positive test for the presence of a DNA which encodes the HTLV-I tax protein or the HTLV-II tax protein indicates the presence of:

a. at least one of HTLV-I tax protein or HTLV-II tax protein;

b. DNA which encodes at least one of HTLV-I tax protein or HTLV-II tax protein; and

c. antibodies specific to at least one of HTLV-I tax protein or HTLV-II tax protein; and

if the test for at least one of (a), (b), or (c) is positive, concluding that the donor or potential donor is a carrier of a disease or condition related to at least one of HTLV-I or HTLV-II infection;

wherein the donor or potential donor had not been tested for antibodies to at least one of HTLV-I or HTLV-II.

In re Appln. No. 09/543,782
Confirmation No. 8307

IN THE DRAWINGS

Replacement Figures 3A, 3B and 8 are attached.